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the first end of the control cable being inserted into the installation opening and, fed through the housing, until the second end of the control cable is received through said opening;

a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and

a holding member connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member,

the closure member configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening.

8. (Amended) The housing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure member includes an upper lip and a lower lip disposed at a distal end of the closure member from the extension, the upper and lower lips configured to removably engage an edge of the installation opening.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbeiter, U.S. Patent 5,964,123, in view of Seidler, U.S. Patent 4,366,915. Claim 1 has been amended to state that the housing includes an installation opening that is configured to receive a first end of a control cable and a second end of the control cable having a nipple. The first end of the control cable is inserted into the installation opening and is fed through the housing, until the second end of the control cable is received through the installation opening. Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 3, lines 38-39, page 4, lines 1-

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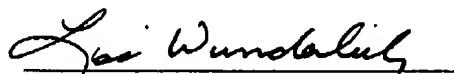
6 and FIG. 4. Arbeiter discloses a bicycle shifter that has an opening 13 in its housing 3 for routing a Bowden cable 8 through the shifter. A nipple 10 at the end of the cable 8 is inserted into a first end of the opening 13 and is pushed out another end of the opening 13 and then the nipple is attached to housing 3 at a locator depression 12. A second end of the cable is wrapped around the cable guide 9 but is not received in opening 13. Seidler discloses a closure for an opening in a container. In contrast, the present invention discloses an installation opening that receives both first and second ends of the control cable. Therefore, the combination of Arbeiter and Seidler does not teach or suggest an installation opening configured to receive a first end of a control cable and a second end of a control cable having a nipple, the first end being inserted into the installation opening and, fed through the housing, until the second end of the control cable is received through the opening as claimed in claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 on obviousness should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-8 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Since claims 3-8 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all limitations of claim 1 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Fourth Amended) A housing of a bicycle shifting mechanism, comprising:
an installation opening configured to receive a first end of a control cable
and a second end of the control cable having a nipple,

the first end of the control cable being inserted into the installation opening
and, fed through the housing, until the second end of the control cable is received through
said opening;

a closure member for covering the installation opening, the closure member made of elastomeric material, the closure member including an extension attachable to one of an interior of the housing, an exterior of the housing and the installation opening of the housing; and

a holding member connecting the extension of the closure member to the housing such that the closure member remains connected to the housing when the installation opening is both covered and uncovered by the closure member,

the closure member configured to seal against the housing and not the extension when the closure member covers the installation opening.

8. (Amended) The housing as claimed in claim [2] 1, wherein the closure member includes an upper lip and a lower lip disposed at a distal end of the closure member from the extension, the upper and lower lips configured to removably engage an edge of the installation opening.